Longinus of Selinus

(c. Early 5th Century – d. 498)

BRIEFING

Longinus of Selinus (Greek: Λογγῖνος; Latin: *Longinus Selinuntius*; born early 5th century, died 498) was one of the Isaurian leaders in the Isaurian War of 492–497.

BIOGRAPHY

Life

Little is known about the life of Longinus except that he was born in the Isaurian city of Selinus. He was a leader of the Isaurian revolt that erupted with the appointment of the senior officer Anastasius I as the succeeding emperor of Zeno, Byzantine Emperor from 474 to 475 and 476 to 491. After two major defeats (in 492 and 493), the Isaurian rebels closed themselves in their fortresses in the Isaurian mountains from 494 to 497, where they were kept supplied by Longinus through the port of Antioch.

The Battle of Cotyaeum

The **Battle of Cotyaeum** (modern Kütahya) of 492 CE was a major engagement is the Isaurian War fought in Phrygia Epictetus. The future Byzantine emperor Justin I was present at the battle as a subordinate commander.

In 2015 a mass grave containing around sixty skeletons was found in Kütahya, believed to be of Roman date. Investigations are ongoing as to whether these skeletons are victims of the Isaurian War or the Battle of Cotyaeum.

Death

In 497, the war ended with the death of its leaders and a year later, Longinus was captured at Antiochia Lamotis by Roman general John the Hunchback, sent to Constantinople to be paraded at Anastasius' victory celebration, then tortured and beheaded at Nicaea in Bithynia.